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Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

70 W. Princeton Rd.
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004
June 5, 2000

Dear Sir:

This is to support the petition for an amendment to Seat Belt Assembly Regulation 49CFR571.209, submitted by Ms. Elizabeth Fisher on April 18, 2000.

It seems to me the height of absurdity for the Federal Government to publicize seat-belt use as a safety measure, and to encourage rigorous enforcement of state and local seat-belt laws to set examples, when its own regulations seem to be based on highly unrealistic estimates regarding the sizes of adult Americans. I believe a stroll through any street or mall in the United States would raise serious doubts as to whether ninety-five per cent of the male population is smaller than a six-foot 215-pounder.

Far more serious, however, is the apparent assumption that individuals whose size and shape do not fall within prescribed statistical limits, whatever percentage of the population this may be, do not deserve this protection. To ignore their interests is blatant discrimination.

I would hope that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration will give full and serious consideration to Ms. Fisher's petition, and exert itself to make the automobile industry aware of this inequity.

Sincerely,

Edward W. Richards

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
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TRAFFIC SAFETY ADM.